

Buckeye Flyer



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Wounded soldier meets medical aircrew again

Story and photos by Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th AW/Public Affairs

Private First Class David Jatich of the U.S. Army was the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Commemoration at the Ohio State house in Columbus, Ohio on May 23. The soldier was wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom and has been recovering stateside in his home in Ohio. He was flown back to the U.S. on the C-17 aircraft with 48 other wounded personnel including Pfc. Jessica Lynch.

Jatich was unaware that Ohio Governor Bob Taft also invited members from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to attend the ceremony. Of the six that attended the ceremony, four medical personnel performed duties on that very same flight. Capt. Kimm Sandusky, Staff Sgts. Sandi Golden, Hans Jagow and Senior Airman Heidi Johnston were at the ceremony and were part of the medical crew on the C-17 aircraft from Ramstein Air Base, Germany to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., with Pfc. David Jatich. Maj. Roberta Stemen and TSgt. Debra Beck also attend the ceremony from the AES. They were involved in bringing back the seven POWs from the Middle East to Ramstein AB, Germany.

Opening the ceremony was Maj. Gen. John Smith, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard, introducing Staff Sgt. Felita Rowe from Wright-Patterson who sung the National Anthem. Following the sergeant was several local grade school children who preformed the Pledge of Allegiance with one hand over their heart and holding a small American flag in the other.

Pfc. David Jatich spoke to a crowd of two hundred about his duties in the desert and how thankful he was to the America public for their support.

Ohio's Governor Bob Taft was next on tap and thanked Pfc. Jatich for serving his country. The Governor also recognized family members, who were in attendance, which had lost their son or husband in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He then thanked members from the 445th AES for their part in the war and concluded the ceremony by laying a wreath at the War Memorial located on the state grounds.

Shortly after, the Governor stopped where the AES members were gathered and thanked them for coming. But before he slipped back into the crowd, Maj. Stemen presented the Governor with an Operation Iraqi Freedom coin. The Governor was grateful for the coin.

Other unit members went up and talked to Pfc. Jatich asking him how he was doing and reminiscing about the nine-hour flight back to the states.

The crewmembers didn't leave without stopping by the reception inside the statehouse to socialize with other members of the ceremony and munching on a few cookies.



Maj. Roberta Stemen, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, presents Ohio Governor Bob Taft an Operation Iraqi Freedom coin.



Pictured from left to right, Capt. Kimm Sandusky, Staff Sgt. Hans Jagow, Pfc. David Jatich, Staff Sgts. Sandi Golden, and Heidi Johnston.

"The tie that binds"

by Capt. Bill Dickens
445th AW/Senior Protestant Chaplain

Regardless of our rank or the job we perform, there are two things that tie all Air Force members together. First, is our patriotism. It is not the paycheck that encourages us to put on this uniform. It is our love of our country and the freedom it holds that drives our service. Second, is the "Core Values" (Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do). These are the glue that holds the U.S. Air Force together and makes it the greatest on earth.

These same core values are mirrored in Scripture. The Apostle Paul states in Romans 12:9-11. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. (*Integrity first*) ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (*Service before self*) ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (*Excellence in all we do*).

The same values that our branch of service holds as central to its existence and success are also central to living the life God intends for us to live. As we go about our business, may we be honest and trustworthy, may we put others before ourselves and may we do everything to the Glory of God.

Chapel Service Schedule:

Every Sunday – 0730 ISO Dock Break Room (Bldg. 4026)

Scarlet UTA – Sunday, 0730 ISO Dock Break Room (Bldg. 4026) and Sunday, 0830 TNET Room (Bldg. 4010)

Gray UTA – Sunday, 0730 ISO Dock Break Room (Bldg. 4026)
Sunday, 0830 TNET Room (Bldg. 4010)
Sunday, 1130 CES Classroom (Bldg. 15)

Chief of Staff thanks Reserve for Operation Iraqi Freedom support

(Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, sent the following letter to Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.)



Gen. John Jumper

Dear General Sherrard

The men and women of Air Force Reserve Command performed superbly during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The world

witnessed joint warfighting at its best and the critical role played by well-trained and well-led airmen.

Airmen from the Reserve were pivotal to the coalition's successes in the war. Our nation's military was able to achieve rapid victory because of the dedicated service of these great citizen airmen. The loyalty and courage displayed to their nation is a model for all airmen to follow.

Please relay my sincere appreciation to all the members of your command. May God bless our great Air Force and our great nation! (6/17/03)

Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Command Chief of the Air Force visits the wing

Chief of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, stopped by June 2, to visit the wing before attending CORONA, a meeting being held at Wright Patterson AFB for general officers of the Air Force.

The visit included a bar-be-cue with the chief and the enlisted. Following lunch an enlisted call was held. The visit concluded with a tour of the facilities and a C-141, the "Hanoi Taxi". The event was such a success, Chief Murray mentioned the visit to other general officers while attending CORONA.

Chief of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, right, receives a "Hanoi Taxi" plaque while visiting the aircraft. Also pictured is Master Sgt. David Dillon, 89th Airlift Squadron. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews, 445th Public Affairs)



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Pictured left to right are: Maj. Chris Clark, Lt. John Smith, Maj. Curt Luther, Master Sgt. John Costello, Tech. Sgts. Tim Davis and Buddy Lyons, Staff Sgt. John Kaufman, Master Sgt. Randy Lynch, Staff Sgt. John Cummings, and Maj. Kevin Chambers. (Courtesy photo)

Mission to Baghdad

by Master Sgt. John Klemack
445th AW/Public Affairs

In what was surely the highlight of the war for this 445th Airlift Wing C-141C crew, on May 20, 2003, they launched their aircraft from Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall in England – bound for Baghdad International Airport. Though members of 445th units had been supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom for many months – at home and overseas – this would be the first time that one of the wing's C-Model *Starlifters* would actually touch down at Baghdad's airport.

Word had come down on May 19th tasking the 744th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron to start the first of several supply missions into Baghdad. (The 744th EAS, made up of members from the reserve units at March ARB, Calif., Andrews AFB, Md., and Wright-Patt, was responsible for scheduling and launching all C-141C missions into the theater of operations.)

Lt. Col. Steve Doss, 744th EAS Commander, selected members of the 89th Airlift Squadron, 445th Operations Support Squadron, 445th Formal Training Unit, and 445th Maintenance Squadron for the mission. Majors Chris Clark and Curt Luther were the pilots, along with 1st Lt. John

Smith. Master Sgts. John Costello and Randy Lynch were the flight engineers and the loadmasters were Tech. Sgt. Tim Davis and Staff Sgt. John Kaufman. The maintenance troops were Tech. Sgt. Wilson "Buddy" Lyons, Staff Sgt. John Cummings, and the commander of the 445th Maintenance Squadron, Maj. Kevin Chambers.

The team's route took them through the skies over the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, the Black Sea, Turkey, and into Iraq.

As they entered Iraqi air space, the crew checked in with AWACS controllers for positive ID, and was cleared into Iraq and on to Baghdad. Coalition forces had installed a navigational beacon at the airport, which they used to easily locate the landing strip. British, Australian and U.S. coalition forces were operating the facility – even providing air traffic control from the airport's existing control tower. The weather on arrival was clear and crewmembers commented that they could see the runway lights just as well as any other international airport.

After being directed to their offload location, the aircraft was met by maintenance airmen activated from Dover AFB and Westover Air Reserve Base, in addition to several security forces personnel

in a Humvee. Their "welcoming party" had already been in-theater for more than a month, existing on MREs and living in the base of the control tower until a tent city was constructed. They were eager to meet and talk with the crew, get caught up on the latest news, and even barter for things from the crew's box lunches!

"Initially we were concerned that we would have to 'tanker fuel,' then take off and fly south to Kuwait City for a fuel stop to enable us to make it back to the European theater," said Maj. Chris Clark. He noted that would have added several more hours to the crew's duty day. However, there was a "normal" fuel truck available because aircraft fuel was being trucked in to the Baghdad airport from the south. That allowed them to depart to the north through Turkey and down through the Mediterranean into the other staging location at Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily.

Though on the ground for a relatively short time, the crew got a courtesy ride to see a Sadaam Hussein mural along the main road to the terminal. They were also given a "windshield tour" around the largely abandoned airport to see what remained of the country's national airline, Iraqi Airways. They saw several 727s, a 737, a Russian-made IL-76, and a 747SP. All of the aircraft were engineless and "gutted out."

"You could see one of Sadaam Hussein's palaces from the airport," said Master Sgt. John Costello. "It was huge even from a distance."

All the crewmembers agreed it was a unique experience, even though they were not the first Air Force transport to fly into the airport. As soon as coalition forces captured and secured the facility, Air Force C-130s, C-17s, C-5s, and even the older B-Model C-141s from McGuire AFB, N.J. flew into Baghdad, however, the 445th Airlift Wing flew the first C-Model C-141 into Baghdad.

Keep'em them flying "Hidden" training area exposed

by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th AW/Public Affairs

The 445th Combat Logistics Support Squadron had a C-130 and two F-16's hidden in a mysterious, secluded compound on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It took a team from 4th Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to find the secret area.

Well, actually, the team was escorted to the area by CLSS members.

"They were here for a Readiness Assistance Visit inspection, prior to our Operational Readiness Inspection next year," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Smith, CLSS aircraft maintenance team chief. Smith co-authored the scenario his group worked through for the inspection team.

All three of the planes at the compound, or "hardsite" as the CLSS calls it, are retired and will never fly again. The CLSS uses them to train by simulating severe battle damage to the aircraft, then repair them to the specifications needed if they were to actually fly again.

"The RAV team is looking at our squadron, and in particular, our ability to perform Aircraft Battle Damage Repair," Smith said.

"Everyone has to know sheet metal," said scenario player Staff Sgt. Matt Thomas. "It's the bulk of the work being done here."

But there were other areas of CLSS the inspection teams scrutinized. "They also looked at our supply and transportation sections," Smith said.

"They are involved," said scenario player Master Sgt. Joe Myers. "They are out here with us wearing chemical gear, doing self aid and buddy care."

Staff Sergeant Greg Ridgeway was

right in the middle of repairing a speed break actuator on an F-16 when a member of the cadre stepped in and announced to the sergeant that he has just incurred a serious eye injury. Ridgeway dropped his tools and loudly feigned the injury. Fellow CLSS members quickly surrounded him and began to administer first aid.

Within a few minutes they had stabilized Ridgeway and evacuated him to an area where medics could treat him and transport him to an area hospital.

"This simulates a real-time atmosphere," said Master Sgt. Andy Riess, another player. "It's not worth completing anything if it's not done safely."

"Safety is definitely paramount," Thomas said.

Later, unexploded ordnance appeared on a maintenance stand. The players had to react and react quickly. Tools were literally dropped in place, the

repairs stopped and all the scenario players did a bunker dive. Within a few minutes the "all clear" signal was given and it was back to work on the "battle damaged" planes.

"This helps us build up our electrical skills, sheet metal skills, fuels skills, and mechanical skills," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Record. "In chemical suits and under pressure to repair the planes quickly, you definitely learn."

"Everyone's expertise was involved," Riess said. "We had to improvise."

"We had to think and work as a team to find solutions best for everyone," Thomas said. "The bottom line is you have to work together to get the job done as quickly and safely as possible."

"The bonus package was getting to wear chemical suits and flak jackets," Record quipped.

Record summed up the RAV when he said, "In the end, we've had a good time and learned."



Tech. Sgt. Dirk King, left and Tech. Sgt. Joe Myers, right, working on the wing edge of a wing on an F-16. (Photos by 445th AW/Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Matt Thomas, left, partially obscured by Tech. Sgt. Larry Record, working on the tail of a C-130.

445th Combat Logistics Squadron





John Buffenbarger work on the lead-
Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller, 445th



Pictured left to right, Tech. Sgt. Dirk King, Master Sgt. Alan Richard, Master Sgt. Brian Tucker, Staff Sgt. Greg Ridgeway (being bandaged) and Staff Sgt. John Homan perform buddy care under an F-16.



ured and Senior Airman Jacob



Staff Sgt Greg Ridgeway works on the speed break actuator on an F-16.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller



Senior Airman Jacob Crafton works on a C-130 horizontal stabilizer.

Logistics Support Squadron

For more information about the vMPF or vRED, call the Air Force Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

“The most notable mission we did was to evacuate seven US POWs from Kuwait to Ramstein Air Base, Germany,” said Doss.



Lt. Col. Steven Doss, 445 th Operations Support Squadron, is beside the 445th Bombardment Group monument from WWII at Tibenham Municipal Airport, Tibenham, Suffolk, UK. The 445th served at Tibenham from November 4, 1943 to May 28, 1945. The memorial is only 30 miles east of RAF Mildenhall where the 744 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Wright-Patterson's 445th AW remains the stateside stage for C-141 operations. Although the flying tempo is not as high as it was during the war, C-141 crews remain busy flying in and out of Europe and the Middle East.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

AB Ashely Clark, 356 AS
AB James Kilpatrick, 445 MSS
AMN Christine Dulin, 445 MXS
A1C Leigh Brenneke, 445 ASTS
A1C Amber Kirby, 445 ASTS
A1C Brian Starling, 445 MXS
A1C Elizabeth Goebel, 445 LRS
A1C James Thompson, 445 ASTS
A1C Ryan Williams, 445 AMXS
A1C Amy Zankert, 445 MOF
SRA Mercy Akpan, 445 CF
SRA Glen Beddies Jr., 445 CES
SRA Mark Bedsoe, 445 AMXS
SRA Ben Cecil, 445 MOF
SRA Larry Davis, 445 AES
SRA Kevin Mauersberg, 445 LRS
SRA Ryan Herring, 445 ASTS
SRA Jennifer Conry, 87 APS
SSgt. Teresa Saunders, 445 ASTS
SSgt. Thomas Stock, 445 AMXS
TSgt. Jon Vogel, 445 MSS
TSgt. Cynthia Jones, 445 MXS
TSgt. James Bramble, 87 APS

TSgt. Phillipe Greene, 445 CLSS
Capt. Michael Hoffman, 445 ASTS
Capt. Scott Huddle, 445 AMDS

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

Meritorious Service Medal

LTC Mark Bottenfield, 445AW
LTC Randy McCoy, 445 AW
LTC Brian Van Vliet, 89 AS
Maj. Timothy Baldwin, 445 OG
Maj. William Bush, 87 APS
Maj. David Deluca, 89 AS
Maj. Jeffrey Grunow, 445 AES
Maj. John Koch, 356 AS
CMSgt. William Millar, 445AMDS
SMSgt. William Arehart Jr., 445 SFS
SMSgt. Scott Haske, 445 SFS
MSgt. James Braunbeck, 445AMXS
MSgt. Ronald Center, 445 AES
MSgt. Charles Chevalier, 445MXS
MSgt. Walter Dodson, 445 SFS
MSgt. Bettye Johnson, 87 APS
MSgt. Richard Ross, 445 CF
MSgt. Robert Smith, 445 MSS

MSgt. Earl Stump, 445 AMXS
MSgt. William Thomas, 445 AMXS
TSgt. Damaso Badillo, 445 AMXS
TSgt. Carlos Machado, 445 AES

Commendation Medal

Maj. Mary Lafara, 445 ASTS
Maj. Phyllis Plear, 445 AW
Capt. Jeanne Lafountain, 445 AES
Capt. Darin McKinney, 445 ASTS
Capt. Karl Schaab, 445 AES
MSgt. Thomas Sites, 445 AES
MSgt. Kenneth Yarber, 445 CLSS
TSgt. Toni Easter, 445 CF
TSgt. Donald Ellars, 87 APS
TSgt. Robert Fulker, 445 SFS
TSgt. Denise Nickles, 445 MOF
TSgt. Brett Snelling, 87APS
TSgt. Sean Storms, 87 APS
TSgt. Paul Twehues, 445 LRS
SSgt. David Woods, 87 APS
SrA Lorenzo Law Jr., 89 AS

Achievement Medal

SMSgt. Johnny Cupp, 445 ASTS
MSgt. Larry Furnish, 445 LRS
MSgt. Henry Harlow, 445 AMXS
MSgt. Denis Higgins, 445 CES

TSgt. Robin Beer, 445 SFS
TSgt. Steven Gilbert, 445 LRS
TSgt. Greg Myers, 445 SFS
TSgt. Sheryl Olmstead, 445 AMDS
TSgt. Melissa Reich, 445 OSS
TSgt. Randy Robb, 445 LRS
TSgt. Timothy Smith, 445 AES

Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.

A1C Elizabeth Goebel, 445 LRS
SrA Mark Bledsoe, 445 AMXS
SrA Bryan Bohn, 445 AW
SrA Ben Cecil, 445 MOF
SrA Larry Davis, 445 AES
SrA Ryan Herring, 445 ASTS
SrA Kari Mechenbier, 445 SVS
SSgt. Jason Polk, 445 LRS
TSgt. James Siders, 445 AMXS
TSgt. Daphne Hampton, 445 CLSS
TSgt. Aubrey Hunt II, 89 AS
TSgt. Mark Meade, 356 AS
TSgt. Troy Whitaker, 445 AMXS
MSgt. Terry Harlow, 356 AS
MSgt. Thomas Vines, 89 AS

Members of the 445th recognized at a local medical picnic

The Kettering Medical Center Network honored the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Dayton's Dragons Fifth Third Field June 8. Members attended the medical network annual picnic at no cost, which included food, live music, kid activities and concluded the evenings event by honoring members of the squadron and then fireworks.

AES members were called out to the pitchers mound and were given a heroes applause by the crowd. Col. Norman Ray, commander of the 445th AES, accepted a gift from the president and CEO of KMCN, Mr. Francisco Perez, for their medical care they provided during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Members of the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron walk onto the field to be recognized at the picnic.



Col. Norman Ray, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, thanks the community for their support of the Reserves.

(Photos by Maj. Ted Theopolos)



Wing Notes

445th Blood Drive

The 445th Airlift Wing will be having a blood drive on July 13, from 0900 – 1400 at the new auditorium in building 4010.

There is an immediate need for blood, especially O Negative and Positive. Blood is still needed to support those engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and here at home.

For more information and to schedule an appointment contact Master Sgt. Jerry Gallagher, 257-5090 or Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews, 255-0125.

New Fetal Protection Program

The 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron is implementing a new wing-wide “**Fetal Protection Program**” for all pregnant reservists. This mandatory Fetal Protection Program will help assure a safe work environment for both the pregnant member and her unborn baby.

All reservists must contact the 445th AMDS upon learning of their pregnancy. An interview will be scheduled for the reservist with the Fetal Protection Program OIC, Capt. Anna Kaus. Questions? Call the 445th AMDS at 937-257-5200, or Capt. Anna Kaus at 866-371-2316 Ext.4811.

Parent Pin Program

A pin with the letter “P” surrounded by the Air Force symbol can now be given to the parents of America’s airmen. This pin was designed for the parents to show their continued support and gratitude for their child serving in the Air Force during this critical time of war. By going to the website www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com, you can register your parents to receive their pins. This is an official Air Force site and all the information that you submit will be protected.

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Picnic with the Vets

by Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th AW/Public Affairs

The overcast day didn’t stop a picnic with the veterans at the Dayton VA Medical Center on West Third Street. Fifteen reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing bused or drove down to the center to spend the afternoon with the residents June 7.

Workers seemed to outnumber the residents at first, but after the music started resident members scuffled or wheeled themselves to the picnic area where the festivities were held. Seven members from Systems Go Wright-Patterson AFB band performed for the veterans. Singer Staff Sgt. Felita Rowe delighted the crowd by signing old tunes recognized by the crowd.

The Air Force Association and the Air Force Sergeants Association Kitty Hawk chapter 751 sponsored the yearly event. Military members from Airman Leadership School worked the food line serving up hotdogs, hamburgers, bake beans chips and cookies to the elderly veterans and visitors.

“It was an honor to meet them and spend some time chatting,” said Maj. Kim Heller from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

“The first gentleman I spoke with, George, found out I was a nurse and told me how he lost his legs and about his family,” said Heller.

“The second gentleman, whose name escapes me, was a delightful man who was a World War II veteran,” said the major. “He was a medial technician in the Army



Maj. Kimberly Heller, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, talks with a patient at Dayton’s Veterans Medical Center picnic. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews, 445th Public Affairs)

Air Corp. He was stationed at Wright Field and worked in the flight surgeon’s office. He told me stories of aircraft mishaps he had to investigate with the flight surgeons. The veteran mentioned it was gruesome work sometimes.”

“Both of these gentlemen kept apologizing for taking up my time,” said Heller. “I told them there was no need, I came to see them.”

Brig. Gen. Rusty Moen, 445th Airlift Wing commander also attended the picnic. The General met up with Mr. Walter Ellison, a WW II veteran he met last year at the picnic. The commander spent a lot of time talking about past events and presented Mr. Ellison one of his General Coins as he did with many of the veterans.

“It’s an honor to come down here and talked to these folks,” said the General. “They have some stories to tell.”

Heller agreed with the general’s sentiments. “I look forward to the next trip out here,” she said.

